

Essay Contest

‘How I Choose to Live a Drug-Free Life’

Help arm your teen with higher self-esteem, real solutions, and concrete action plans for the future.

The California National Guard (CNG) Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) program is sponsoring an essay contest. DDR will provide **30** winners in grades 9th-12th, including graduating seniors with ***free tuition** to attend the National Teen Leadership Program (NTLP) conference this summer. (This year's conference fee is **\$369.00** and includes university accommodations, meals, seminar materials, program book, tee shirt, and much more.) Youth eligible to apply include CNG dependent teens and youth who participate in DDR missions throughout the year (examples include Drug Education for Youth (DEFY) camps, Students In Prevention (SIP), Friday Night Live).

What is NTLP you ask? The National Teen Leadership Program is a three-day weekend conference held at a university or college. Once there, attendee's will experience a high energy, exciting weekend designed to give them vision, hope, guidance, and a focus for the future. NTLP is committed to providing them with the knowledge, incentive, and vision to become the leaders of tomorrow. Weekend activities include; networking with other teens that want to change the future and move towards their dreams, hearing high-powered motivational speakers, workshops on relevant topics of interest to teens, small group sessions where students work on problem-solving and decision-making skills, a talent show, mini-Olympics, an abundance of high-energy peer support activities, and much more. They will develop skills and friendships during these three days that will be invaluable as they continue their education and enter the workforce.

On the final day, academic excellence, community service, and extra curricular accomplishments will be honored, followed by a recognition ceremony that includes one of our finest motivational speakers. Parents, family and friends are invited to our closing presentation.

Over 7,000 teens have attended NTLP conferences in the last thirteen years. For planning, succeeding, and becoming a leader, NTLP offers the right tools for success.

The Mission of NTLP is to cultivate and empower student leaders. NTLP accomplishes this mission through:

- **Education** in leadership skills gained in group workshops
- **Motivation** by professional speakers who inspire students to action
- **Recognition** for past achievements through awards and scholarships
- **Support** by peers and peer leaders in a motivating and fun environment

It is vital that student achievers be recognized and given the incentive to further their education and community involvement. This program is a stepping stone for a successful future. It will stimulate ambition for new goals and develop confidence, pride and self-image. NTLP is committed to providing each participant with the knowledge, incentive and vision to become the leaders of tomorrow.

DDR believes strongly in the effectiveness of NTLP. There is not a group of people on this earth that have more energy, more enthusiasm, more dreams, more drive, and more ambition than teenagers.

DDR and NTLP know that students who believe in themselves and have a high level of self-esteem are less likely to take drugs and more likely to resist negative peer pressure. NTLP fosters the perseverance young people need in today's challenging society. For additional information regarding NTLP you can look them up on the web at www.teenleader.org, or you can write, call or email your questions to:

Write: NTLP, 2443 Fair Oaks Blvd., #342, Sacramento CA 95825
Call: (800) 550-1950
Email: Isegura@teenleader.org

How can I attend? This year's fee is \$369 (free to the 30 essay winners) and may be paid by family members, schools or raised by community donations. Information on how to raise the fee is sent upon receipt of the application along with an outline of activities.

There is no GPA requirement to attend and students do not have to be in positions of leadership at their school. They must however, have the desire to attend. One conference is planned for the summer of 2005, and keep in mind that transportation is not included. The location and date of the conference is:

July 29-31 – Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles

How can I submit an essay? You must meet the following criteria:

1. You must either be the dependent of a California National Guardsman or have participated in at least one DDR event within the last 12 months.
2. If your parent or legal guardian is a member of the California National Guard, please include with your essay the name and unit of their military assignment.
3. If you have participated with DDR, please indicate the event name and date in your essay.
4. You must be in grades 9th-12th (including graduating seniors).
5. The essay must be on "Why you have chosen to live a drug-free life." It can be typed or hand written. (If you choose to hand write your essay, please PRINT legibly.) Essays should be long enough to get your point across, but no less than one page.
6. Essays are processed on a first-come, first-served basis.
7. Essay submissions must be received no later than 15 July 2005. Submit your essays, by mail, to:

Drug Demand Reduction
Attn: Operations - NTLP
10293 Rockingham Drive
Sacramento, CA 95827

Or you may *E-mail them to: Carla.licardie@ca.ngb.army.mil or ruel.fuentecilla@ca.nbg.army.mil

**Please do not make your essay an E-mail attachment because we may not be able to open them.*

All essay contestants will be notified by 20 July 2005, and informed if you are one of the 30 selected to be awarded with the free tuition. Be sure to include with your essay, your name, School, address and a daytime phone number where you can be reached. If no contact can be made at the number provided your award will be given to another essay entrant.